

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 192102
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 192102

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IS, US, MARR, MPOL

SUBJECT: MATMON-C IN THE PRESS

FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY FROM IAI

REFTEL: A) STATE 167733 B) TEL AVIV 9526

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY AND HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN TO DOD/ISA. WE EXPECT TO HAVE OUT TO YOU IN A FEW DAYS CABLE WITH CLEARED GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING PRESS INQUIRIES ON POSSIBLE WEIZMAN VISIT.

2. YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HE TOLD WEIZMAN--IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT STATUS OF MATMON-C--THAT VP "WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH HAROLD" AS SOON AS VP RETURNED TO U.S.

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3. VICE PRESIDENT DID DISCUSS MATTER WITH SECDEF, OUTCOME OF WHICH WAS THAT NO VISIT BY WEIZMAN SHOULD TAKE PLACE UNTIL USG HAS ITS POSITION ON MATMON-C FULLY LINED UP. CERTAINLY, NO WEIZMAN VISIT IS POSSIBLE--AT THE VERY EARLIEST--UNTIL WELL AFTER SECRETARY'S AUGUST MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

4. BLITZER ARTICLE MAY DERIVE FROM JULY 19 DOD LETTER TO DINITZ WHICH WAS NOT CLEARED WITH DEPARTMENT. APPARENTLY INTENDED AS INTERIM HOLDING-ACTION REPLY, TEXT MAY HAVE LED TO LEAK GLOSSED BY BLITZER. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

5. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR AMBASSADOR:

AT THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE, I AGREED TO LET YOU KNOW WHETHER WE HAD FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THE SO-CALLED PRIORITY LIST.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE A GOOD GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF MATMON-C WHICH INCLUDES THE PRIORITY LIST ITEMS. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER WEIZMAN IN MARCH CONCERNING SOME OF THE ISSUES UNDERLYING MATMON-C WERE CUT SHORT BY MINISTER WEIZMAN'S RETURN TO ISRAEL DUE TO THE TERRORIST RAID. WHEN THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS IN ISRAEL RECENTLY HE INDICATED THAT SECRETARY BROWN WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH MINISTER WEIZMAN WITH RESPECT TO CONTINUING THE DIALOG ON DEFENSE ISSUES. THESE ISSUES INCLUDE THE SUBJECT OF R&D COOPERATION WHICH WAS ALSO MENTIONED AT THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE. WITH WARM REGARDS, SINCERELY, DAVID E. MCGIFFERT. END OF TEXT. VANCE

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